3/27/86 S3465-2A

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

JANUARY 1986

A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

1985 -- THE YEAR IN REVIEW

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN MAINE CONTINUED TO IMPROVE DURING 1985 AS THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINED FROM 6.1 PERCENT IN 1984 TO A 1985 RATE OF 5.4 PERCENT, THE LOWEST ANNUAL RATE RECORDED FOR MAINE SINCE 1969. FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR MAINE'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FELL BELOW THE COMPARABLE NATIONAL AVERAGE. THE NATIONAL RATE FOR 1985 WAS 7.2 PERCENT, 1.8 PERCENTAGE POINTS ABOVE THE MAINE RATE OF 5.4 PERCENT.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EITHER WORKING OR SEEKING WORK REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE BETWEEN 1984 AND 1985, WITH AN INCREASE OF ONLY 1,000 IN MAINE'S ANNUAL AVERAGE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE. THIS WAS THE SMALLEST OVER-THE-YEAR GAIN SINCE A DECLINE IN THE LABOR FORCE OF 1,000 BETWEEN 1976 AND 1977.

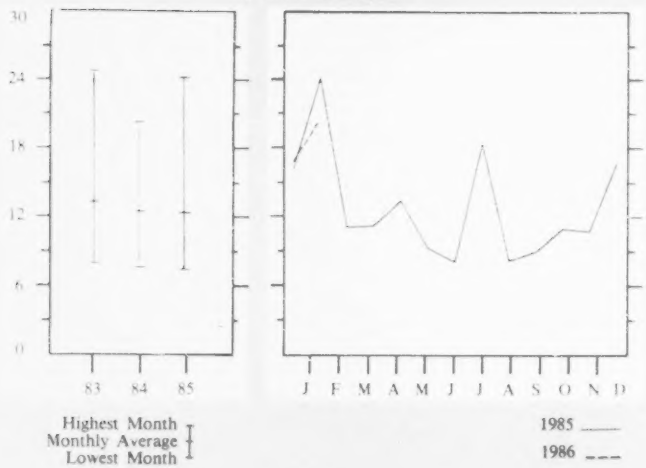
TOTAL RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT ROSE FROM 517,000 IN 1984 TO 522,000 IN 1985. ALTHOUGH SMALL, THIS GAIN OF 5,000 JOBS BROUGHT EMPLOYMENT TO ANOTHER ALL-TIME HIGH FOR MAINE. THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED DECLINED FROM AN AVERAGE OF 34,000 IN 1984 TO 30,000 IN 1985.

BETWEEN 1980 AND 1985 THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE IN MAINE INCREASED BY 8.9 PERCENT COMPARED WITH 8 PERCENT FOR THE NATION. RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT IN MAINE GREW MUCH FASTER THAN THAT OF THE NATION - 11.5 PERCENT VERSUS 7.9 PERCENT. AS A RESULT, MAINE'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DIPPED BELOW THE NATION'S IN 1981 AND HAS SINCE REMAINED THERE.

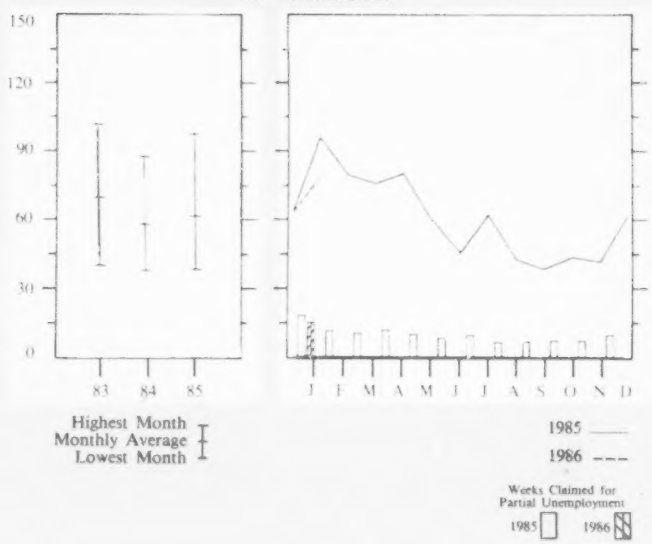
NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN MAINE INCREASED BY 13,400, FROM AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 445,700 IN 1984 TO 459,100 IN 1985. MOST OF THE GAIN IN NONFARM EMPLOYMENT WAS REGISTERED BY NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, WITH THE LARGEST ANNUAL AVERAGE INCREASES REPORTED BY RETAIL TRADE (5,300), SERVICES (4,700), CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION (2,500), AND WHOLESALE TRADE (1,900), ALL ESTABLISHING NEW RECORDS.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

UI Initial Claims
in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed
in Thousands



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SEVERAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES RECORDED DECLINES PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT OF COMPETITION FROM FOREIGN IMPORTS. THE INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF FOREIGN GOODS RESULTED FROM THE RECENT STRENGTH OF THE DOLLAR AND RELATIVELY LOWER WAGE RATES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. INDUSTRIES AFFECTED BY THESE CONDITIONS INCLUDED LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS, DOWN 3,600; APPAREL, DOWN 600; PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, DOWN 400; AND TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS, DOWN 300.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES RECORDING EMPLOYMENT GAINS INCLUDED ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING, FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS, AND NONELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

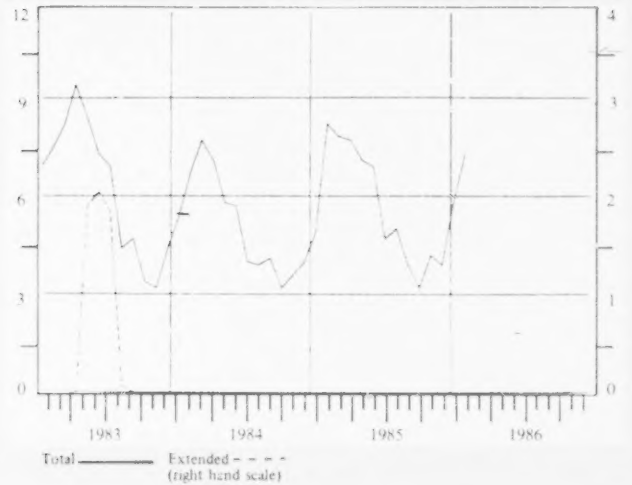
THE ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES INCREASED FROM $8.05 IN 1984 TO $8.40 IN 1985, AN INCREASE OF 4.3 PERCENT. THIS GAIN IN HOURLY EARNINGS OUTPACED THE 3.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE SAME PERIOD. AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED ROSE SLIGHTLY FROM 39.9 HOURS IN 1984 TO 40.0 HOURS IN 1985. PRIMARILY AS A RESULT OF THE GAIN IN HOURLY EARNINGS, THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS ROSE BY 4.6 PERCENT, FROM $321.20 IN 1984 TO $336.00 IN 1985.

Selected Employment Security Activities

UI Benefit Payments

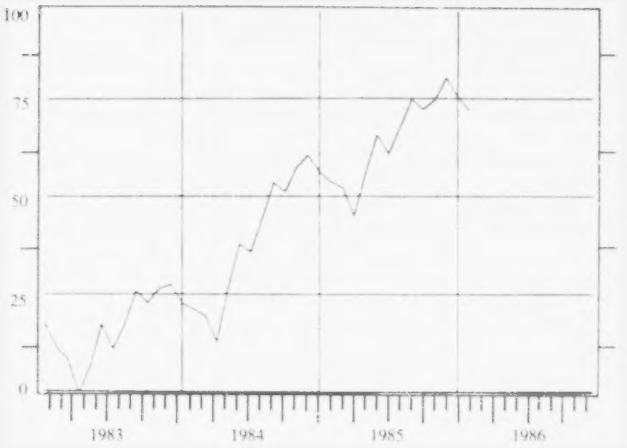
in Million Dollars

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



- Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

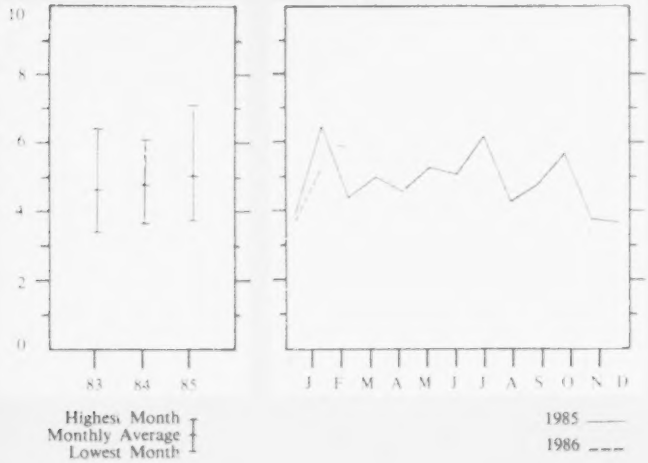
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	452.5	466.2	434.4	108.3	110.8	102.9	37.0	37.5	36.0
Total Manufacturing	105.6	107.0	98.2	16.8	16.6	16.3	10.5	10.2	10.5
Durable Goods	45.3	46.2	44.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	2.6	2.5	2.5
Lumber and Wood Products 2/	14.9	15.2	14.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2
Primary and Fabricated Metals	4.0	4.0	3.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7
Machinery, except Electrical	4.1	4.3	4.5	2.1	2.2	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	9.6	9.4	9.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	0.8	0.7	0.9
Transportation Equipment	9.5	9.4	10.1	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.1	0.1	*
Other Durable Goods 3/	3.8	3.9	3.6	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.4
Nondurable Goods	59.7	60.8	61.9	8.5	8.4	8.1	7.9	7.7	8.0
Food and Kindred Products	7.5	7.9	7.6	1.9	1.9	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Textile Mill Products	7.0	7.0	6.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.3	1.3	1.3
Apparel	4.3	4.3	4.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products	17.1	17.4	17.9	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.6	0.5	0.6
Printing and Publishing	5.2	5.3	4.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	4.0	3.9	3.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.9	1.9	1.8
Leather and Leather Products	13.6	14.0	15.4	1.6	1.5	1.4	2.6	2.5	2.8
Footwear (except Rubber)	11.1	11.6	12.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.0	1.9	2.2
Other Leather Products	2.5	2.4	2.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.6
Other Nondurable Goods 4/	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	346.9	358.2	328.2	91.5	94.2	86.6	26.5	27.3	25.5
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Contract Construction	21.2	23.1	18.8	5.6	6.0	5.0	1.5	1.8	1.4
Transportation and Public Utilities	19.1	19.2	18.8	5.8	5.5	5.6	1.4	1.4	1.3
Wholesale Trade	22.3	22.4	21.0	8.7	8.6	8.4	1.9	1.9	1.9
Retail Trade	85.5	88.7	78.1	22.9	24.4	21.9	6.7	7.2	6.4
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	21.7	21.5	20.0	10.0	9.9	9.1	1.9	1.9	1.8
Services	91.7	93.1	88.0	24.7	25.2	23.2	9.4	9.3	9.1
Government	85.3	90.1	83.4	13.8	14.6	13.4	3.7	3.8	3.6
Federal	18.8	18.9	18.4	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local 5/	66.5	71.2	65.0	12.1	12.9	11.8	3.4	3.5	3.3
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full - and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Lumber and wood products, and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland series. 3/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 25, 32, 39. 4/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 26, 29. 5/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

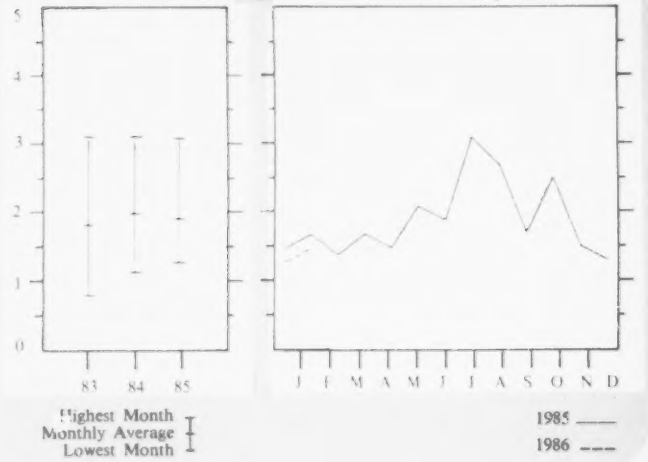
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1985	1984	1983
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$346.23	$362.61	$334.00	40.4	41.3	40.0	$8.57	$8.78	$8.35	$8.40	$8.05	$7.61
Durable Goods	352.76	373.85	345.95	40.5	42.1	40.7	8.71	8.88	8.50	8.46	8.22	8.04
Lumber and Wood Products	318.79	351.10	319.56	39.7	42.2	40.4	8.03	8.32	7.91	8.06	7.57	7.37
Primary and Fabricated Metals	353.62	369.23	334.55	42.4	43.8	41.1	8.34	8.43	8.14	8.25	7.89	7.75
Machinery, except Electrical	381.10	414.29	385.90	41.2	43.2	42.5	9.25	9.59	9.08	9.11	8.36	8.08
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	289.94	296.63	301.41	38.0	37.5	39.4	7.63	7.91	7.65	7.57	7.56	7.27
Other Durable Goods	438.96	453.92	410.27	42.7	44.8	41.4	10.28	10.13	9.91	9.50	9.51	9.31
Nondurable Goods	341.78	354.09	324.66	40.4	40.7	39.4	8.46	8.70	8.24	8.31	7.95	7.37
Food and Kindred Products	250.56	250.76	222.40	34.8	36.5	32.0	7.20	6.87	6.95	6.63	6.46	6.10
Textile Mill Products	278.21	280.44	272.84	41.4	41.0	42.9	6.72	6.84	6.36	6.64	6.13	5.87
Apparel	202.06	211.68	204.51	35.7	36.0	34.9	5.66	5.88	5.86	5.83	5.55	5.39
Paper and Allied Products	575.99	584.04	538.90	47.8	46.5	45.4	12.05	12.56	11.87	12.25	11.62	10.95
Leather and Leather Products	216.08	217.62	213.35	36.5	37.2	36.1	5.92	5.85	5.91	5.93	5.80	5.59
Other Nondurable Goods	299.15	319.20	290.38	38.8	40.1	39.4	7.71	7.96	7.37	7.51	7.11	6.60
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	349.46	362.99	338.43	38.7	39.2	38.9	9.03	9.26	8.70	8.90	8.08	7.67
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	266.81	273.62	259.38	38.5	39.2	38.2	6.93	6.98	6.79	6.78	6.58	6.16

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 2/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	234.6	243.7	231.7
Unemployed	15.6	13.6	17.2
(Percent)	6.7%	5.6%	7.4%
Resident Employed	219.0	230.1	214.5

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec
(1967=100) All Items	328.4	327.4	316.1	327.4

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.3%
Percent Change from Last December	+0.3%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+3.9%

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	537.9	555.5	535.0	501.4	528.2	497.6	36.5	27.3	37.4	6.8	4.9	7.0
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	38,700	42,000	40,000	36,200	40,000	37,500	2,500	2,000	2,500	6.5	4.8	6.3
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	40,000	40,400	40,100	36,800	37,700	36,600	3,200	2,700	3,500	8.0	6.7	8.7
Portland MSA	110,000	113,100	107,100	106,100	110,100	102,700	3,900	3,000	4,400	3.5	2.7	4.1
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	119,460	123,460	114,990	115,160	120,240	108,910	4,300	3,220	6,080	3.6	2.6	5.3
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	30,000	31,360	30,540	28,000	29,820	28,640	2,000	1,540	1,900	6.7	4.9	6.2
Bath-Brunswick	25,560	24,760	25,110	24,320	23,810	23,740	1,240	950	1,370	4.9	3.8	5.5
Belfast	10,320	10,860	10,460	8,990	9,870	8,970	1,330	990	1,490	12.9	9.1	14.2
Biddeford	24,360	24,770	23,570	22,750	23,830	22,170	1,610	940	1,400	6.6	3.8	5.9
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	10,600	12,420	10,820	9,850	11,870	10,080	750	550	740	7.1	4.4	6.8
Calais-Eastport	12,370	12,740	12,450	10,810	11,750	11,050	1,560	990	1,400	12.6	7.8	11.2
Caribou-Presque Isle	20,880	21,660	20,670	18,870	19,930	18,330	2,010	1,730	2,340	9.6	8.0	11.3
Central Penobscot	2,760	2,780	2,490	2,510	2,600	2,260	250	180	230	9.1	6.5	9.2
Dover-Foxcroft	6,220	6,410	6,490	5,780	6,070	6,040	440	340	450	7.1	5.3	6.9
Ellsworth	20,330	21,100	19,580	18,260	19,920	17,850	2,070	1,180	1,730	10.2	5.6	8.8
Farmington	11,080	12,080	11,710	10,080	11,220	10,540	1,000	860	1,170	9.0	7.1	10.0
Fort Kent-Allagash	4,850	5,150	5,470	4,350	4,740	4,990	500	410	480	10.3	8.0	8.8
Greenville	1,120	1,110	1,320	1,010	1,000	1,190	110	110	130	9.8	9.9	9.8
Houlton	5,760	5,920	5,750	5,320	5,570	5,360	440	350	390	7.6	5.9	6.8
Kittery-York 3/	26,960	28,180	25,960	26,220	27,730	25,140	740	450	820	2.7	1.6	3.2
Lincoln-Howland	5,420	5,440	5,440	5,020	5,130	5,100	400	310	340	7.4	5.7	6.3
Livermore Falls	4,470	4,800	4,730	4,100	4,490	4,280	370	310	450	8.3	6.5	9.5
Madawaska-Van Buren	3,800	3,820	3,710	3,320	3,450	3,250	480	370	460	12.6	9.7	12.4
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,470	4,470	4,440	4,130	4,250	4,190	340	220	250	7.6	4.9	5.6
Norway-Paris	11,220	10,980	10,990	10,250	10,280	10,030	970	700	960	8.6	6.4	8.7
Patten-Island Falls	2,410	2,460	2,210	2,240	2,320	2,070	170	140	140	7.1	5.7	6.3
Rockland	16,620	17,320	16,470	15,340	16,430	15,270	1,280	890	1,200	7.7	5.1	7.3
Rumford	8,350	8,330	8,570	7,610	7,720	7,730	740	610	840	8.9	7.3	9.8
Sanford	15,270	15,240	15,240	14,040	14,360	14,060	1,230	880	1,180	8.1	5.8	7.7
Sebago Lakes Region	11,250	10,540	9,770	10,710	10,160	9,160	540	380	610	4.8	3.6	6.2
Skowhegan	21,270	22,490	21,460	19,290	20,970	19,330	1,980	1,520	2,130	9.3	6.8	9.9
Southwest Penobscot	10,150	10,280	10,110	9,160	9,550	9,200	990	730	910	9.8	7.1	9.0
Waterville	21,360	22,580	22,160	20,010	21,540	20,700	1,350	1,040	1,460	6.3	4.6	6.6
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,734.1	1,675.1	n/a	1,659.8	1,581.9	n/a	74.3	93.2	n/a	4.3	5.6
Massachusetts	3,039.0	3,074.0	3,019.0	2,916.0	2,956.0	2,882.0	123.0	118.0	138.0	4.1	3.9	4.6
New Hampshire	545.4	544.4	523.8	524.7	530.5	493.6	20.7	13.9	30.2	3.8	2.6	5.8
Rhode Island	496.7	508.0	491.8	470.5	485.7	465.9	26.2	22.3	25.9	5.3	4.4	5.3
Vermont	288.0	286.2	274.2	272.7	273.3	260.2	15.3	12.9	14.1	5.3	4.5	5.1
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,147.7	5,985.0	n/a	5,905.3	5,683.6	n/a	242.4	301.4	n/a	3.9	5.0
UNITED STATES 4/	115,431	115,780	113,475	106,959	108,063	104,344	8,472	7,717	9,131	7.3	6.7	8.0

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note
n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current figures preliminary; last month and year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued-Week Claimants	15,240	10,618	16,351	1,390	875	1,562	1,344	1,157	1,764
Insured Unemployment Rate *	3.5	2.4	3.8	1.4	0.9	1.7	3.9	3.3	5.1

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

Selected Characteristics Of Unemployment Insurance Claimants

REGULAR PROGRAM

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	3.6	3.2	6.8
Clerical and Sales	9.8	9.2	14.7
Service	7.1	8.1	11.3
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related	2.7	2.7	2.0
Processing	6.2	6.0	4.6
Machine Trades	15.2	18.4	13.8
Benchwork	12.5	17.8	13.4
Structural Work	25.0	18.4	17.4
Miscellaneous	17.9	16.2	16.0

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Total under 40	59.4	58.2	59.1
Under 22	5.6	7.5	5.9
22-24	10.5	10.7	10.8
25-34	31.7	29.0	31.6
35-39	11.6	11.0	10.8
Total 40 and Over	40.6	41.8	40.9
40-44	8.6	8.6	7.6
45-54	13.4	13.6	12.3
55-64	10.7	10.6	10.0
65 and Over	7.9	9.0	11.0

The Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
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BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

JANUARY 1986

U.S. MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
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"For Qualified Workers Contact Your Local Bureau of Employment Security Job Service Office"

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